

THE NEGRO NOT INFERIOR

Bruce Grit Opens the Pages of History to Senator John T. Morgan and Offers the Lie Courteous to that Distinguished Exemplar of Reactionary Statesmanship.

Albany, N. Y., Special.—I commend the following from Howard's Reports, Vol. XIX, pages 572-3 and 582 to Hon. John T. Morgan, a Senator of the United States from the state of Alabama, who foolishly asserts that this is a white man's country, and that the Negro race is inferior. I would also call his attention to Jefferson's works, Vol. VIII, page 386 and Vol. V, page 429 in which he will find the answer to his reckless statement that we are inferior to the Caucasian race. Says Howard: It has been often asserted that the Constitution was made exclusively by and for the white race. It has already been shown that in five of the thirteen original states, colored persons then possessed the elective franchise and were among those by whom the Constitution was ordained and established. If so, it is not true in point of fact that the Constitution was made exclusively by the white race, and that it was made exclusively for the white race, is in my opinion, not only an assumption not warranted by anything in the Constitution, but contradicted by its opening declaration; that it was ordained and established by the people of the United States for themselves and for their posterity and as free colored men were then citizens of at least five states they were among those for whom and whose posterity the Constitution was ordained and established." Senator Morgan is a trifle subsequent in claiming so much for the "unconquered and unconquerable Caucasian." The New York Journal, a democratic newspaper in an editorial in its issue of January 10th gives the lie courteous to Senator Morgan's statement of the inferiority of the Negro in the following language:—(I have only space for a paragraph.)

"And the Negro too, with a tired black face resting for the next day's slavery—a slavery on a wage basis, but slavery all the same. Possibly you despise his thick lips. But those lips are carved in every sphinx in Egypt's sand, and if you could go back far enough you would find the ancestors of that Negro before the days of the Pharaohs, laying the foundation of your religion and locating the stars in heaven. At that time your forbears were gibbering cave savages sharpening bones and gnawing raw flesh. You did not know that the Negro was so important far back? Well, you know now. When you see the Negro on the opposite seat—the ill-starred one who has gone down in the human race while we have gone up—think about him, study him; speculate as to his ultimate end—and your own. Don't merely say to yourself 'that's a plain Negro,' and go on chewing gum."

Senator Morgan is as ignorant concerning the Negro as a wooden Indian, and he is not alone. For among his class of white men, who are in reputation for great knowledge on this subject, the information which they do not possess would fill a great many large volumes of the size of the Century Encyclopedia. If Senator Morgan ever reads the Bible he will there find indubitable proofs that the Negro, or Ethiopian is not only not inferior to the Caucasian race, but superior to it in many respects. The people of Ethiopia and thus referred to by Amos IX, 7, "Are ye not as the children of the Ethiopians unto me, O Children of Israel saith the Lord," and Jeremiah XLVI, 9, "Come up ye horses and rage ye chariots, and let the mighty men come forth; the Ethiopians and Ly-

bians that handle the shield, and the Lybians that handle and bend the bow," St. Paul Acts VIII, 2, "Beloved a man of Ethiopia, an Eunuch of great authority." David Ps. XXXVII, 4, "I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: Behold Philistia and Tyre with Ethiopia; this man was born there." The Queen of the South or Sheba, daughter of Abraham by Keturah. Came from Ethiopia—or in the language of the Scripture from the uttermost parts of the earth—to Jerusalem with a great company, to see and hear all the wisdom of Solomon. The annals of Abyssinia say that she was a pagan when she left Sheba or Azab, but being filled with admiration at the sight of Solomon's works, she became a proselyte to Judaism while at Jerusalem. She likewise bore Solomon a son, whom she called Menelek, and carried him with her on her return to Sheba. After a lapse of a few years, Menelek was sent back to Solomon to educate and he had him thoroughly instructed in the Jewish religion. Menelek was crowned of Ethiopia in the Temple at Jerusalem. Rollin in his ancient history, referring to the first great city described in ancient and sacred history by the Cushites or Ethiopians says they surrounded it with walls, which were 37 feet in thickness, 350 feet in height and 480 furlongs in circumference. One hundred and two years after the flood Nimrod, the son of Cush, an Ethiopian attempted to build the tower of Babel in the land of Shinar lying between Mesopotamia on the west, and Persia on the east and watered by the Euphrates—mankind being all of one language, one color and one religion, they agreed to erect a tower of prodigious extent and height to get themselves a famous character. The construction of the tower of Babel it is said occupied these people twenty-two years when their language was confounded and they dispersed themselves and replenished the world. There are a few of the things to the credit of a race which Senator Morgan characterizes as an inferior race.

The City Babylon which was founded on Nimrod 2247 B. C. was eighty times larger than the city of London, England, being 45 miles in circumference, it was laid out in 625 squares, formed by the intersection of 25 streets at right angles, the walls which were of brick, were 350 feet high and 37 feet broad. A trench surrounded the city, the sides of which were lined with brick and water proof cement. Quays of beautiful marble adorned the banks of the river, and on one bank stood the magnificent temple of Belus and on the other the Queen's Palace. These two edifices were connected by a passage under the bed of the river. Thebes derives its name from Thebes, which with its hundred palaces and hundred gates, might vie with the noblest cities of the world. I was celebrated by Homer, an Ethiopian whose description is generally familiar. It acquired the surname of Hecatompylos to distinguish it from the other Thebes in Bœotia.

Thebes what a glory on thy temple sate, When monarchs hardly less than God's were thine, Through mystery and darkness shroud thy fate, The glimpse imagination gives us is divine.

Through the long vista as we gaze half blind, Distinct, though distant, graceful, though austere, Palace and pillar cave and pyramid In awful grandeur and repose appear. Nations since born have wept o'er thy decay; Science and art have flourished and have died;

And glory like a dream has passed away— Yet thine imperishable fame shall aye abide.

The native spirit yet may walk and live (Freedom and culture, what hasn't thou not done) And Ethiopia kindle and revive Like her own table when it felt the sun.

Let Senator Morgan brush up his history before he again exposes his ignorance of a race, to which the civilization of the world are indebted far more than some of them are willing to admit.

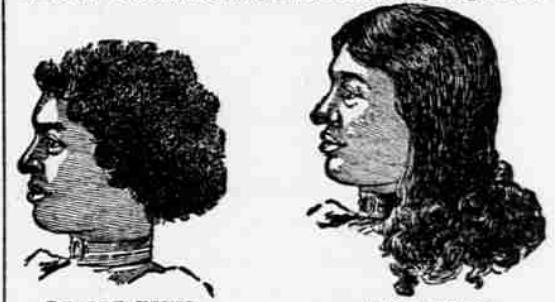
The Senators knowledge of the Negro is circumscribed by the limits of his 8 by 10 state, and when he ridicules the race he discloses to the thoughtful public the effects of the peculiar civilization under which the Negro with whom he is more intimately acquainted was reared. As a river cannot rise above its source, neither can Negroes who have been, animalized and brutalized by southern civilization rise above that condition in one generation. But they will rise, and with healing in their wings, after their traducers of the Morgan type are dead and turned to clay, if not sooner. I want to add my testimony humble though it be to the value of the great work which Prof. E. A. Johnson, principal of the Washington School, Raleigh, N.C. and author of the school history of the Negro race in America—has accomplished in collecting and compiling such a valuable collection of historical facts bearing upon the Negro in America and which identify the race with every important event which has transpired in the history of the United States from the landing at Jamestown to the surrender at Appomattox. Such a book as Johnson's history should have a place in the library of every Negro family in this country. I cannot too strongly urge upon every young man and woman of the race the necessity of owning a copy of this school history. It is a revelation and the author has gathered together all the fragments of history about the Negro found here and there in books, written by white men, and put them together in concise form, so that they make a connected story, a useful and authentic history which I am glad to learn has been adopted for use in many Negro schools and colleges. Prof. Johnson's history of the Negro soldiers in the Spanish-American war is equally as valuable to the student of Negro history as is his school history just referred to. Every important fact obtainable has been seized by the author and made to do duty in vindicating the courage and heroism of the Negro troops in that war. The Crummell Historical Society, Albany, will doubtless at its next meeting adopt these histories and study them during the winter. They both bear the stamp of scholarship, and shows care in their preparation and no Negro need be ashamed to read them and study them. They are quoted at one dollar per volume, and may be had on application to the author, E. A. Johnson, Raleigh N. C.

"The Negro and the Sunny South," is the title of a remarkable book from the pen of Mr. S. C. Cross, of Martinsburg, West Va. A young and vigorous writer of the white race who isn't afraid to tell the truth on both races and who does it in a way which commands the attention of the thoughtful reader. Mr. Cross doesn't slobber over the Negro, nor cover up the faults of his own race. In a letter to the writer he says: "I am

twenty-seven years old, I was born and rocked in the lap of poverty and pain—and fought the bitterest battles of life entirely unaided and alone. I have no fears—ask no favors from any man or race. All I wish or want of each and all is the fair exchange of honesty and thought. I am a poor man still and wrote this book because I hate the chilling chains of cruelty and crime, because I long with all my youthful heart and mind to tear the frightful fetters from the soul and brain of man, The race that will not promote its promoters will continue to suffer the pangs of persecution, poverty and pain. The race that will not protect its protectors or defend its defenders will finally mingle with destruction and decay." The book is highly commended by the book sellers, news dealers and stationers of New York, The Petersburg, West Virginia Press, The Richmond Planet, The Bookseller and Newsmen of New York and other well known journals. To write such a book required a great deal of courage and those whose condition has called it into being should "promote their promoters and defend their defenders" by liberally patronizing this courageous young white man who writes like the eloquent Rogers and thinks like a veteran. The book sells for 50 cents, (paper) and \$1.00 (cloth) and is well worth the price asked for it. Mr. Cross is a talented young gentleman and a firm believer in the possibilities and capabilities of the Negro. Buy his book.

And now for a little fun. Everybody knows or has heard of the tragedian R. Henri Strange of Philadelphia. Well Henry gave an act from Hamlet in New York a few nights ago and was getting along swimmingly when arriving at the crowning point of the scene in which Hamlet grows tragic, his thighs split from the waist to the ankles and the curtain descended with a dull and sickening thud. BRUCE GRIT.

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